

THE LONDON SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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# THE SECRETS CASE

**C**HARGES have been brought against this newspaper and its Editor under the Official Secrets Act of 1911, concerning our publication on January 11, just as Biafra was collapsing, of extracts from "An Appreciation of the Nigerian Conflict." This had been prepared by Colonel Robert E. Scott, defence adviser to the British High Commission in Lagos, on the eve of the Federal offensive.

The charges, brought under Section 2(2) of the Act, have evoked much comment on the serious issues raised for the freedom of the Press in view of the sweeping and vague nature of Section 2. These were powerfully posed in a leading article in the *Times* on Wednesday. Mr. Hugh Fraser, M.P., who also received a copy of the same document, to which he gave wide publicity, has drawn attention to the curious fact that he has not been summoned.

As the case is *sub judice*, all we can say at the moment is that this newspaper and its Editor intend to defend themselves against the charges with the utmost vigour.